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PP RUEHAG RUEHBI RUEHCI RUEHLH RUEHPW RUEHROV
DE RUEHAH #1039 2241414
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
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FM AMEMBASSY ASHGABAT
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 1314
INFO RUCNCLS/ALL SOUTH AND CENTRAL ASIA COLLECTIVE
RUCNCIS/CIS COLLECTIVE
RUCNMEM/EU MEMBER STATES COLLECTIVE
RUEHAK/AMEMBASSY ANKARA 4133
RUEHBJ/AMEMBASSY BEIJING 1946
RUEHKO/AMEMBASSY TOKYO 1811
RUEHKL/AMEMBASSY KUALA LUMPUR 0210
RUEHAD/AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI 0415
RUEHIT/AMCONSUL ISTANBUL 2381
RHMFISS/CDR USCENTCOM MACDILL AFB FL
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHDC
RHEBAAA/DEPT OF ENERGY WASHDC
RUCPDOG/DEPT OF COMMERCE WASHDC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHDC
RUEKJCS/JOINT STAFF WASHDC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHDC
RUEKJCS/SECDEF WASHDC
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C O N F I D E N T I A L ASHGABAT 001039

SIPDIS

STATE FOR SCA/CEN, EEB
PLEASE PASS TO USTDA DAN STEIN
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E.O. 12958: DECL: 08/11/2018
TAGS: [PREL](#) [ECON](#) [EPET](#) [TX](#)
SUBJECT: TURKMENISTAN: WAITING FOR A RESPONSE FROM
AZERBAIJAN, PIPELINE SECURITY

REF: A. ASHGABAT 817
[1](#)B. BAKU 721
[1](#)C. ASHGABAT 964

Classified By: Charge Sylvia Reed Curran for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) During a discussion of regional pipeline issues, Deputy Chairman/Foreign Minister Meredov told Charge August 11 that Turkmenistan is still waiting for a response from Azerbaijan to Turkmenistan's concrete proposal on oil and gas cooperation. He emphasized that the proposal was serious and not a "signal." Meredov said that Turkmenistan wants to pursue delimitation and energy cooperation as two parallel tracks. However, the position that Serdar/Kyapaz is 100% Turkmenistan's is non-negotiable. Therefore, if the issue of delimitation has to be resolved first in order to advance on energy cooperation, then that is what will have to happen. Obviously, said Meredov, first resolving delimitation makes energy cooperation more difficult.

[1](#)2. (C) Pointing to the current situation in Georgia, Meredov made a pitch for a UN convention on pipeline security. He said having such an international agreement was essential to guaranteeing the security of pipelines. Meredov said Turkmenistan has the gas and the desire for trans-Caspian and trans-Afghan pipelines. However, security was a factor in both cases. If Turkmenistan sent gas through a trans-Caspian pipeline, it would want security guaranteed.

[1](#)3. (C) COMMENT: Although Turkmenistan and Azerbaijan undoubtedly have made excellent progress over the past year in resolving many of the issues that had troubled their relationship, it is clear that -- from Turkmenistan's perspective -- the relationship is still not trouble-free. Meredov's words that the proposal was serious and not just a signal may reflect the Turkmen concern that the Azeris are not taking them seriously. In any case, it is more important than ever for the United States to continue its constructive

role, urging the two sides to work together. END COMMENT.
CURRAN